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USAID AGRO HORIZON PROJECT

QUARTERLY REPORT

JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2016

April 29, 2016

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by ACDI/VOCA.

This publication was made possible through support provided by the United States Agency for International Development under the terms of Contract No. AID-176-C-14-00002.

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CONTRACT NUMBER: AID-176-C-14-00002

USAID COR: LUIS HERNANDEZ

ACTING CHIEF OF PARTY: AGNES LUZ

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABSP	Agricultural Business Service Provider
AFVE	Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises
AgWASH	Agriculture Wash, Sanitation and Hygiene
AS	Advisory Services
ASP	Agricultural Service Providers
AIRD	Associates for International Research and Development
APWG	Agricultural Policy Working Group
BNF	Beneficiary Farmer
ECS	Environmental Compliance Specialist
EAEU	Eurasian Economic Union
GGPAS	Good Governance and Public Administration Strengthening
GOKR	Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
Ha	Hectare
HICD	Human and Institutional Capacity Development
KGS	Kyrgyz Som
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFI	Micro Finance Institution
MTS	Machinery and Tractor Stations
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PMC	Pasture Management Committee
PY	Project Year
RAS	Rural Advisory Service
RfP	Request for Proposal
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise

SPRING	Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
TAIC	Trainings, Advisory, Innovations and Consulting Centre
ToT	Training of Trainer
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VC	Value Chain
VHC	Village Health Committees
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
ZOI	Zone of Influence

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

ACDI/VOCA, with subcontractors Helvetas and AIRD, is pleased to submit the Quarterly Report for the USAID Agro Horizon Project for the period January 1 – March 31, 2016. This report is organized according to the quarterly report requirements listed in section F.5.4 of the above referenced contract number.

In order to sustainably reduce poverty and promote agricultural economic growth, the USAID Agro Horizon Project (referred to as Agro Horizon or the project here forward) aims to:

1. Increase productivity of agricultural producers and link them to markets (Task 1: Productivity)
2. Increase productivity and markets for agribusiness (Task 2: Marketing)
3. Improve the enabling environment for agriculture sector growth
4. Improve nutritional status of women and children in the zone of influence (ZOI)

Year 2 activities build on the successes from Year 1 interventions that were designed to identify program opportunities. Successful pilot programs were expanded, including value chain (VC) concepts, and where entry points were identified, new activities will be developed going forward.

Year 2 program activities are broken down into two main categories; **value chain activities** and **supporting activities**. Supporting activities include productivity and marketing (Tasks 1 and 2) activities that are not incorporated into value chain activities, as well as enabling environment (Task 3) and nutrition (Task 4) activities. Crosscutting elements including gender and environmental compliance are integrated throughout each value chain, and in some cases, supporting activities.

The geographic focus of the project is defined as the entirety of Naryn, Jalalabad, Osh, and Batken oblasts.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Table I: PY2 Key Output Indicators to date (Unique Beneficiaries)

Ind #	INDICATOR	PY 2 Target	Achieved through Q2			Percentage Achieved through Q2
			Q1	Q2	TOTAL by Q2	
5	Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG assistance	13,000	4,300	3,380	7,573 ¹	58.3%
6	Number of target value chain private enterprises assisted	40	0	9	9	23%
7	Number of individuals trained	40,000	4,396	3,512	7,804 ²	19.5%

The number of target value chain private enterprises is expected to increase from nine to 20 organizations (including machinery tractor services (MTSs)) in the third quarter. The project expects to have more than 50 percent of the target met only by the third quarter.

The number of individuals trained will increase significantly in the third quarter through three main interventions: demonstration days, mass trainings, and nutrition/AgWASH trainings. Further, about 2,000 individuals received training during Quarter 2, which will be captured in the database in Quarter 3 per the implementing partners' deliverables schedule.

QUARTERLY CUMULATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **7,286 farmers mobilized** across six value chains.
- **5,926 farmers applied improved technologies** and good agricultural practices (GAP) in producing apricots, maize, potato, onions, fruit seedlings and vegetables on 1,875 hectares of land. These farmers received from the project inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides and received training on good agricultural practices in the production of apricots, maize, potatoes, fruit tree seedlings, and onions.
- Over **100 seasonal jobs were created** during the reporting period in the apricot and maize value chains.

¹ The calculation for each quarter and for PY is for the unique household/individuals. Therefore, the total for the "Total" in this table does not equal to the exact sum of quarterly participants, since some individuals participate in multiple quarters.

² See the footnote above

SUCCESS STORY



USAID | KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

SUCCESS STORY

Reaching New Heights at the Agro Expo Silk Road

The challenge of growing vegetables in adverse climatic conditions in a remote, high altitude village leads to success after attending a regional agro expo fair.



Mrs. Izatkan Mashrapova at the Agro Expo "Silk Road 2016"

"I never thought that one exhibition could change my life."

Izatkan Mashrapova

Izatkan Mashrapova finds running a household at 3,400 meters above sea level in the remote village of Kara Teyit very challenging. Extremely cold winters that last for eight months of the year leave little time in the summer to grow nutritious fruits and vegetables to feed her family. Also, lack of access to quality fertilizers and pesticides limits how much her garden produces.

Izatkan is not alone in her struggles. More than half of Kyrgyzstan's population lives in rural areas and their income is strongly linked to agricultural activities. Household food insecurity in Osh, where she lives, is as high as 39% and the poverty rate is 40%. Dietary diversity is a major issue with 47% of food coming from cereals.

Along with 15 other female growers from her village, Izatkan attended the Agro Expo "Silk Road 2016". Supported by the USAID Agro Horizon Project for the second year in a row, the three-day event is known as the leading agricultural fair in the Fergana Valley, linking local farmers, international agribusinesses, and regional market dealers. Local farmers like Izatkan, have the opportunity to learn firsthand about new technologies and to purchase high-quality agricultural inputs that allow higher yields.

Izatkan's husband attended the fair last year, where he learned about technologies to extend the growing season. Soon after, the couple built their own greenhouse and successfully grew tomatoes. This year, Izatkan bought high quality cucumber, bell peppers, and vegetable greens seeds. Most importantly, she bought plant protection products and fertilizers.

"I discovered that in a region where winter continues for eight long months, I can have a successful agricultural business", Izatkan said.

The Mashrapov family report that they were able to double their yield of vegetables, attributing their success to the Agro Fair. Their income increased four-fold, from 50,000 som to more than 200,000 som.

Overall, the three-day agro expo brought together over 4,000 attendees from the southern regions of Kyrgyzstan and neighboring countries with 39 exhibitors from all over the world promoted their products and services to farmers, agribusinesses, and agrarian students in the region. As a result of the expo, over 219 million som (USD 3 million) worth of 52 contracts were concluded.

The USAID Agro Horizon Project aims to raise smallholder farmers' incomes by expanding markets and increasing the competitiveness of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. The project will increase employment in the agricultural sector, especially for women and youth, while improving the availability of nutritious foods.

U.S. Agency for International Development
Mission in the Kyrgyz Republic:
www.usaid.gov/kyrgyz-republic
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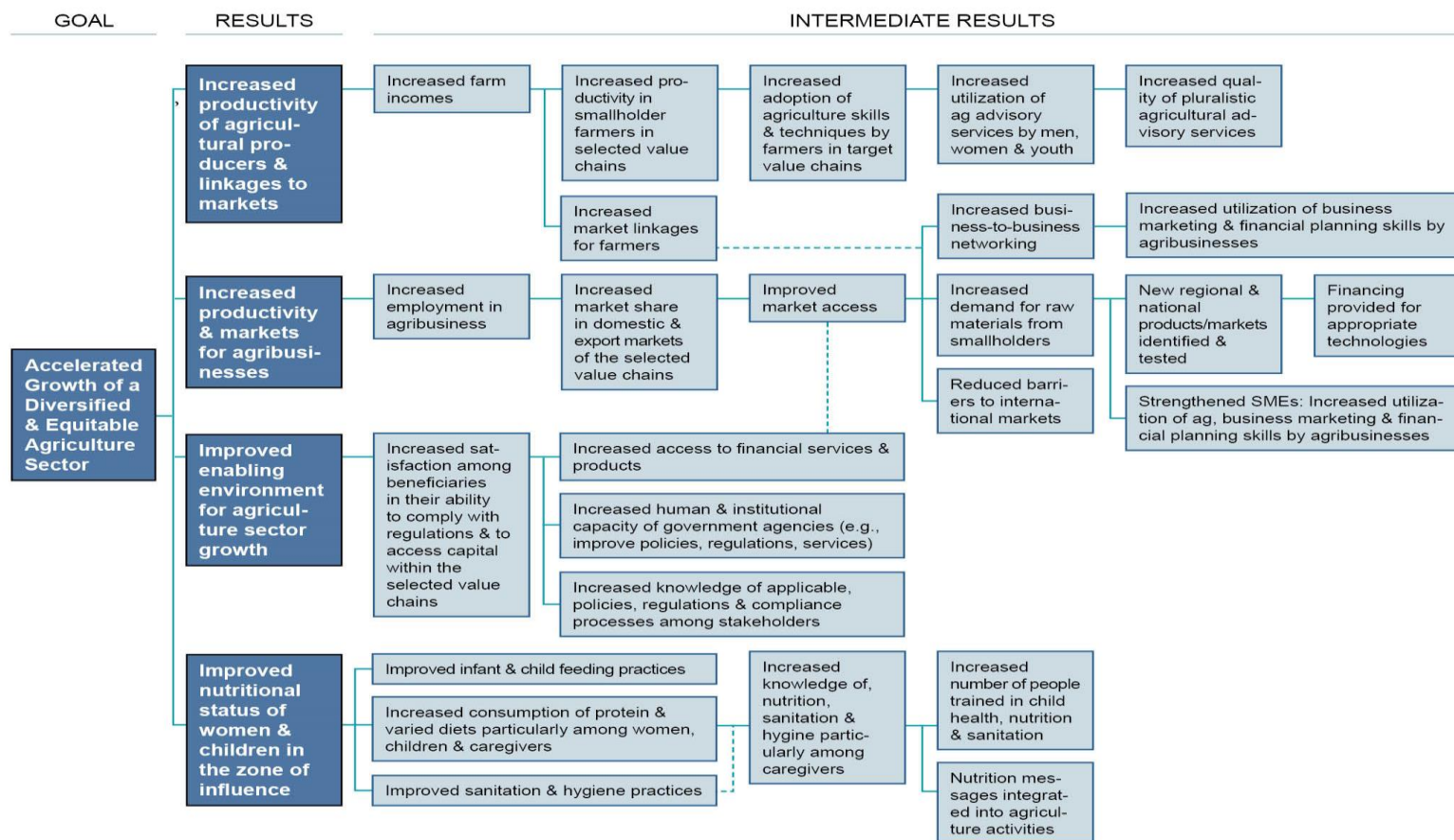
AGRO HORIZON RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The Agro Horizon results framework describes the development hypothesis presented in the Year 2 work plan. It shows cause-and-effect linkages between high-level objectives, intermediate results, and the activities designed to achieve them. It also includes critical assumptions essential to successful implementation.

The Agro Horizon results framework illustrates how the project aims to promote changes in the target value chains in order to spur economic growth that increases incomes and reduces hunger, poverty, and under nutrition. Using a facilitative, market-systems approach, Agro Horizon will:

1. Increase agricultural productivity and link producers to markets
2. Increase productivity and markets for agribusinesses
3. Improve enabling environment for agriculture sector growth
4. Improve nutritional status of women and children in the zone of influence

Figure I: Agro Horizon Results Framework



IMPLEMENTATION- VALUE CHAIN ACTIVITIES

CROP I: LIVESTOCK

VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES

Agro Horizon aims to work with farmers and pasture management committees (PMCs), to improve their knowledge on pasture management strategies, segregation of herds, and feeding rations in order to increase the quality and production of livestock milk and meat.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Table 2: Indicator Targets for Livestock (Winter Milk Production) Value Chain

Output and Outcome Indicators	Year 2 Target	Achieved as of Q-2	Comment
Number of Rural Households benefiting directly from USG assistance	102	0	Intervention concept to be submitted in Quarter 3
Number of Target Value Chain private enterprises assisted	2	0	Intervention concept to be submitted in Quarter 3
Number of Individuals Trained	204	0	Intervention concept to be submitted in Quarter 3
Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	180	0	Intervention concept to be submitted in Quarter 3

Table 3: Indicator Targets for Livestock Value Chain

Output and Outcome Indicators	Year 2 Target	Achieved as of Q-2	Comment
Number of Rural Households benefiting directly from USG assistance	500	0	Intervention concept to be submitted in Quarter 3
Number of Target Value Chain private enterprises assisted	13	0	Intervention concept to be submitted in Quarter 3
Number of Individuals Trained	1,000	0	Intervention concept to be submitted in Quarter 3

The project is working on a new business model for the milk value chain that will work on improving the yields year round beyond just the winter milk production. This model will also increase production of other dairy products and increase availability during the winter time. The concept note will be submitted in Q3.

The Year 2 work plan for the livestock value chain (VC) envisages work on the segregation of cattle herds sent to pastures as well as trainings for farmers and pasture management committees on pasture management strategies, and improved feed rations. Agro Horizon, assisted by an international expert, studied opportunities to improve breeding, grazing practices and feed rations to increase yield and incomes of farmers. Based on this study, the Agro Horizon team developed a concept note that included a series of technical trainings for farmers, an artificial insemination program, capacity building of veterinarians and demonstration farms. As that concept was designed to address complex, interrelated issues within the livestock VC at a basic level and would not achieve tangible outcomes within the short term, Agro Horizon chose not to move forward with it.

Instead, Agro Horizon will employ a market system development approach to ensure sustainability and competitiveness of the meat and milk VCs. Within this approach, an SME will integrate numerous supplying farmers and buyers into a viable VC. Agro Horizon will facilitate linkages between actors, channeling of goods along the VCs and access to high-value markets.

2.1 INCREASE SME COMPETITIVENESS

To ensure the development of a market system in the livestock VC, Agro Horizon involved SMEs in the development of its intervention concept. Oasis Agro, the leading feed producer in the region, will be an integrator, linking feed crop growers with livestock keepers from one side, and livestock keepers with milk or meat processors from the other. Agro Horizon will fine-tune the concept together with Oasis Agro and farmers, and will work on increasing the competitiveness of Oasis Agro, which has already proved itself as a sustainable business. As Oasis Agro itself is planning to enter the dairy sector as a processor, Agro Horizon will facilitate the introduction of Oasis Agro's integrative business model in the dairy sector.

1.2 FACILITATE MARKET LINKAGES FOR PRODUCER GROUPS

1.3 INCREASE SALEABLE YIELD OF PRODUCER GROUPS

1.4 INCREASE PRODUCER GROUPS' ACCESS TO INPUTS AND SERVICES

In Quarter 1, farmers identified imbalanced feed rations as a main constraint that limits yield. The proposed model with the feed producer as an integrator helps to address the issue of marketing and sales of maize, and the issue of undernutrition in the livestock sector. Maize farmers, who receive assistance from Agro Horizon under its productivity component, perfectly fit into this model. The feed producer will buy maize grown by beneficiary farmers, process it and supply balanced feed to livestock keepers, which in turn supply milk and meat to processing companies. Oasis Agro, identified as the most suitable integrator, will submit its concrete proposal on implementation of the model during the next quarter.

CROP 2: POTATO

VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES

Based on the successful implementation of second reproduction (R2) seed potato pilot demonstration plots in Chong-Alai in Year 1, Agro Horizon expanded the activity to reach more R2 seed potato-growing farmers and ware potato producers in Year 2 to 1) include more farmers in the original location, and 2) to expand the pilot project into a new geographic area. Both activities aim to increase productivity of seed and ware (eating) potato by increasing the demand for R2 seed potatoes and strengthening the cooperation between seed potato producers and ware potato growers.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Table 4: Indicator Targets for Potato Value Chain

Output and Outcome Indicators	Year 2 Target	Achieved in Q1	Achieved in Q2	Achieved as of Q2	Comment
Number of Rural Households benefiting directly from USG assistance	300	0	557	557	Some of the farmers who already received assistance are not yet in the M&E database
Number of Target Value Chain private enterprises assisted	6	0	0	0	Will be provided in the next quarter
Number of Individuals Trained	600	0	580	580	The planned number of participants in Demo Days is 2,400 farmers
Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	480+4	n/a	n/a	n/a	Will be reported on in the Annual Report
Number of jobs attributed to implementation	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	Will be reported on in the Annual Report

Last year Agro Horizon launched an activity to support second reproduction (R2) of seed potato in Chong Alay rayon for low-lying early ware potato producers in Aravan and Kara-Suu rayons. The high elevation of Chong Alay makes it one of a few locations in the country where reproduction can be done without the risk of disease infestation. Ten seed potato producers from Chong Alay rayon multiplied R2 seed potato. The purpose of the activity was to provide Aravan and Kara-Suu rayons with good quality early potato seeds. The climate of these rayons is appropriate for growing early potato and it is a good opportunity for farmers to sell their potato at a good price at the end of spring. Because of the positive results of the previous year, the project concluded an agreement with the ASP TES Centre for continuation in Year 2. The number of seed potato producers in Chong Alay increased to 30 and the number of early potato growers in the low-lying areas of Osh Oblast to 500.

In January, USAID approved the second potato value chain concept in Jalalabad, Batken and Naryn, after which the project announced a tender for implementing partners to Agricultural Service Providers (ASPs). The main purpose of this activity is to improve the quality of seed material and to stimulate potato growers for production of R2, and to ensure access of farmer to quality seed potato resulting in an increase in ware potato farm productivity. Towards this, the project made an in-kind contribution for the creation of seed funds managed by MFIs.

Based on the tender, the Rural Advisory Services in Jalal-Abad (RAS JA), in Batken (RAS Batken) and Naryn Oblasts (RAS Naryn) were selected as partners to implement ware potato value chain activities in these three oblasts. In early February, upon concluding service agreements with these selected ASPs, the project team held introductory meetings with the ASPs to re-confirm and discuss the potato value chain concept and finalize the budget.

At the same time, micro-finance institutions (MFIs) that were capable of and willing to contribute to the creation of farmers' seed fund were identified. The MFIs were PF "Altyn Oroon" in Batken Oblast, "Soyuz Konsultantov" Ltd in Jalalabad Oblast and "AKOK Credit" in Naryn. These MFIs were willing to contribute a share of 50 percent to the payment for R2 potato seeds from seed potato cooperatives.

I.1 IDENTIFY PRODUCER GROUPS AND I.3 INCREASE SALEABLE YIELD

TES Centre trained 500 ware potato producers in 25 farmers groups (each group included 20 farmers) in Aravan and Kara-Suu rayons.

The early potato producers from Aravan and Kara-Suu rayons prepared seed potato for sprouting in preparation for planting starting from February 20. TES Centre started practical consultations after the distribution of seed potatoes by visiting farms and monitored proper preparation of seed potatoes for planting. In Aravan and Kara-Suu, the project supports the establishment of 14 demonstration fields on early potato growing technologies.

In early March, the partners in Batken, Jalalabad and Naryn mobilized 561 ware potato farmers (108 in Batken, 324 in Jalalabad and 129 in Naryn). In Jalalabad, out of 324 mobilized farmers, 54 are women and 270 are men. In Batken, 51 of 108 mobilized farmers are women and 57 are men. In Naryn, 55 out of 129 mobilized farmers are women and 74 are men. These farmers are organized in groups. In Naryn, the mobilized farmers are from 12 villages (two each in all five rayons of Naryn oblast and two in Toguz Toro rayon of Jalalabad oblast which is more easily accessible from Naryn where our ASP RAS Naryn is located).

In late March, RAS Jalalabad trained 10 farmers in Toktogul rayon and 20 farmers in Ala-Buka rayon on soil preparation and irrigation. At the same time, about 40 other farmers received extension and technical advice on the same topics. In April, implementing partners have conducted trainings in other rayons of Jalalabad.

In March, RAS Batken also provided the first training sessions on improved technology for ware potato production for 108 farmers broken down into 11 groups.

I.4 INCREASE PRODUCER GROUP ACCESS TO INPUTS AND SERVICES

Last year, early potato farmers of Aravan and Kara-Suu rayons established cooperatives with the expectation that they provide access to quality seeds for its members. As they are newly established and their management is weak, the project identified that further support was needed to strengthen their management and accountancy capacity. Therefore, a contract between Agro Horizon and the micro-finance institution “Agrocredit Plus” was signed whereby the MFI provides support to help establish the seed funds for the cooperatives in Aravan, Kara-Suu and also for the seed multiplier cooperative in Chong Alay. The function of the MFI is to regulate the cooperatives’ seed funds and keep the accounts. Agro Horizon contributed 40,000 kg of first reproduction (R1) seed potatoes and 59,200 kg second reproduction (R2) seed potatoes as a startup investment. The project distributed seed potatoes to 301 farmers with the condition of 50 percent prepayment with the balance due after harvesting.

The project also purchased 151,200 kg of R2 seed potatoes for Batken and Jalalabad oblast, and 42,000 kg for Naryn oblast. Each ware potato farmer received or will receive 350 kg of R2 seed potatoes per 0.1 hectare plot.

In Naryn, the project facilitated the establishment of a seed fund to be managed by AKOK Credit with 50 percent beneficiary contribution and 50 percent project contribution. AKOK Credit and 129 farmers signed agreements.

In Jalalabad, 73 beneficiary farmers from Toktogul and Aksy rayon received agro-inputs from the project. Each farmer received 30 kg of fertilizer Urea, 20 kg of fertilizer Ammophos, 0,2 liter of Bi-58 (insecticide), 0,2 of Ridomil Gold (fungicide), 0,2 kg of Zenkor (herbicide) and one manual sprayer. Distribution of agro-inputs started on March 30 in Jalalabad oblast. The distribution of the agro-inputs will continue in April for farmers of other areas in Jalalabad as well as in Batken and Naryn oblasts.



Figure 2: Potato farmers receive high quality inputs and sprayers.

CROP 3: APRICOT

VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the apricot value chain interventions is to increase the productivity of apricot farms and improve the quality of apricot products in Batken in order to get higher prices. It is estimated that apricot farmers' gross margins could be doubled if good agronomic and processing practices were applied.

In Year 1, the contracted ASPs trained 280 farmers in improved agronomic and on-farm drying practices and the project provided the apricot farmer cooperative "Alysh Dan" with solar dryers and supported the processing cooperative "Batken Jiemishy" with brand development and improved packaging.

In Year 2, project support is planned to reach 1250 apricot farmers with a focus on consistent agronomic practices with the use of fertilizers and chemical plant protection.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Table 5: Indicator Targets for Apricot Value Chain

Output and Outcome Indicators	Year 2 Target	Achieved in Q1	Achieved in Q2	Achieved as of Q2	Comment
Number of Rural Households benefiting directly from USG assistance	1,500	299	2,058	2,332	The initial target of 1500 farmers was reduced to 1,250 per USAID instructions. The additional numbers are demonstration day participants
Number of Target Value Chain private enterprises assisted	6	0	0	0	Will be provided in the Q3

Number of Individuals Trained	3,000	302	2,104	2,382	The number of planned participants is 4,250: 1250 primary beneficiaries and 3,000 Demo Days participants
No of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	2,400	n/a	n/a	n/a	Will be provided through the Annual Report
Number of jobs attributed to implementation	2	0	0	0	Around 80 young people were trained and contracted to spray agrochemicals. As it is not yet clear how many of them will evolve into full-time employment (FTE), concrete figures will be reported in the Annual Report

In January, the team reviewed proposals received for the tender for project activities announced in December. The project awarded the contract to Bishkek-based El Pikir as implementer and signed a contract with them late January. El Pikir contracted six local agronomists from Batken as trainers.

The project mobilized local experts to address pruning, plant protection, and spring frost mitigation issues.

During the reporting period, a short term apricot expert from Tajikistan reviewed the modules and learning materials of El Pikir and provided comments for improvement. He also approved the training program. The expert joined the service provider for the training and demonstration days to ensure service quality and effectiveness. He also participated in the Agro Expo “Silk Road 2106” exhibition in Osh and made a presentation on apricots for exhibition participants. Together with the service provider, the apricot expert conducted preparatory work for spraying, explaining the specific issues such as defining spraying time, equipment calibration, load per hectare, etc.

1.1 IDENTIFY PRODUCER GROUPS AND 1.3 INCREASE SALEABLE YIELD OF PRODUCER GROUPS

El Pikir mobilized 1,250 households broken into 50 groups for the project and conducted the first round of 50 trainings and consultations with 1,250 participating farmers. Three demonstration days took place attended by 834 farmers. The remaining trainings, consultations and demonstration days will be conducted in the next quarter.



Figure 3: Apricot farmers in Batken learn pruning skills during a demonstration day in February.

ken-based company “Jash Ka.” They recruited and hired new personnel. Upon getting the contract from the project, their employees grew from only seven to nine workers to 86, all of which were youth. All employees were trained on the proper handling of pesticides in order to ensure safety and reduce the risk of harm to self and others. To enhance the technical capacity of the implementing partner, the project contributed an in-kind grant in the form of 35 motorized sprayers.

The project selected a company to deliver the following pesticides to “Jash Ka” company in Batken: 500 L of insecticide, 125 L of fungicide, 5000 kg of lime, and 5000 kg of copper sulphate. Each farmer received an in-kind grant in the form of 4 kg of copper sulfate and 4 kg of lime as ingredients for Bordeaux mixture, 0.4 L of insecticide and 0.1 L of fungicide. Starting in April, three separate sprayings of apricot trees for 1250 farmers on 625 ha will take place. The in-kind grant also included pesticide spraying services.



Figure 5: Onion farmers participate in an early onion demonstration day.

As a result of the trainings and demo days, over 2000 farmers acquired apricot pruning skills. The trainings took place just in the right time of the agricultural season and helped farmers apply correct pruning techniques on more than 625 hectare of apricot orchards.

1.4 INCREASE PRODUCER GROUP ACCESS TO INPUTS AND SERVICES

In the reporting period, the project conducted three tenders for inputs and services (for chemical plant protection supply, fertilizer supply and for spraying services), and three suppliers were selected.

For spraying services, the project selected the Bat-



Figure 4: Apricot farmers receive fertilizers in Batken.

The fertilizers supply company delivered 187.5 tons of ammophos to Batken. Each beneficiary farmer received an in-kind grant for 150 kg of ammophos per 0.5 hectare of apricot orchard, totaling 625 hectare. Fertilizer distribution took place March 18-19. The event was highly promoted to local mass media, including local TV, newspapers, and Facebook.

In February, farmers were trained on fertilizer application before applying it to 625 ha of apricot gardens.

CROP 4: ONION

VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES

Agro Horizon plans to increase yield and profits of onion farmers in Batken, Osh and Jalalabad oblasts. Agro Horizon is promoting the production of “early” onion using hybrid seeds and better fertilizer application, plant protection, and post-harvest handling practices. The onion value chain interventions of Agro Horizon support 1,000 onion farmers belonging to 500 households.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Table 6: Indicator Targets for Onion Value Chain

Output and Outcome Indicators	Year 2 Target	Achieved as of Q-2	Comment
Number of Rural Households benefiting directly from USG assistance	500	0	Results will be reported next quarter
Number of Target Value Chain private enterprises assisted	3	0	Data will be reported at the end of Year 2
Number of Individuals Trained	1,000	0	Results will be reported next quarter
Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	800	n/a	Data will be reported at the end of Year 2
Number of jobs attributed to implementation	2	n/a	Data will be reported at the end of Year 2

1.1 IDENTIFY PRODUCER GROUPS

From February to March, Agro Horizon mobilized 20 qualifying onion farmers who met the criteria for participation in the onion program and agreed to be demonstration farmers in 20 villages of Batken, Osh and Jalalabad oblasts. Mobilization of demonstration farmers proved to be challenging, as the farmers had to follow improved production technology and hold demonstrations on their plots, as well as contribute KGS 160,000 as leverage (approx. USD 2,285) to purchase machinery. To address these challenges, Agro Horizon facilitated the process with The First Micro-credit Company so that farmers could take loans to cover their portion (leverage) of the machinery costs.

Trainings, Advisory, Innovations and Consulting Centre (TAIC), an implementing partner, is mobilizing at least 50 farmers around these demonstration plots. Overall, 1,000 farmers will be involved in demonstrations and trainings. Another challenge in the onion VC is to convince farmers to switch to growing early onion using advanced agricultural technology. This validated the need for demonstration plots to show that growing early season onions is more profitable. Meetings with farmers show that farmers are very interested in demonstrations of advanced agro technologies.

1.3 INCREASE SALEABLE YIELD

Report on volume and value of sales to be provided in the year three annual report.

1.4 ACCESS TO INPUTS AND SERVICES FOR PRODUCER GROUPS

At the end of March, demonstration farmers received inputs including high-yield hybrid seeds, fertilizers, crop protection products (pesticides, fungicides, insecticides) for 0.3 ha of land as 100 percent grant. Acquisition of the power tillers and precision seeders was delayed due to issues with VAT payment in order to clear the seeders through customs. In order to continue with proper demonstration of technology, the project hired machinery and tractor stations (MTS) for mechanical services and prepared the lands for seeding. A limited number of seeders were purchased by the project locally and were used to demonstrate mechanized seeding. The project will distribute machinery after the resolution of administrative issues.

The implementing partner submitted a detailed work plan and timetable of trainings and demonstrations for demo farmers and attendees of demonstrations. The trainings include sessions on water management, seeding, soil fertility, plant protection and post-harvest handling.

2.1 INCREASE SME COMPETITIVENESS

Agro Horizon's activity in the onion VC extends beyond helping farmers and reaches other actors as well. The activity involves ASPs responsible for mobilization and training of farmers, MTSs that provide mechanical services and suppliers of inputs and machinery. ASPs and input suppliers, selected on a competitive basis through an open tender, had equal opportunities to demonstrate their products, retain clients, increase sales and market their services in the target regions.

2.1.3 FACILITATE MARKET LINKAGES

Despite it being early in the agricultural season, Agro Horizon began facilitating onion sales grown by beneficiary farmers. In February, Agro Horizon's staff members met with onion wholesale traders in Istraftshan, Tajikistan, which regularly export early and regular onion to Russia. The traders expressed interest in buying good quality onions from Kyrgyz farmers.

CROP 5: MAIZE

VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES

Livestock farming is a significant economic activity in Kyrgyzstan and maize is the main forage crop used for livestock feed. Maize production has steadily increased over the last decade as livestock numbers rise. Exports to neighboring Tajikistan also contribute to the increase in maize production. The project aims to increase saleable yield of maize producers by introducing hybrid maize production techniques with a specific focus on linking producers with quality seed input suppliers and through provision of technical assistance.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Table 7: Indicator Targets for Maize Value Chain

Output and Outcome Indicators	Year 2 Target	Achieved in Q1	Achieved in Q2	Achieved as of Q2	Comment
Number of Rural Households benefiting directly from USG assistance	2,200	0	108	108	The initial target of 6000 was reduced to 2,200 HHs as per USAID instruction

					A large part of these 2200 HHs received inputs, but are not yet in the M&E database
Number of Target Value Chain private enterprises assisted	12	0	0	0	Will be reported in the next quarter; the project has started working with 17 organizations including 9 warehouses and 8 MTSs in Osh, JA oblasts
Number of Individuals Trained	3,250	0	109	109	The initial target was reduced from 12,000 to 3,250 per USAID instruction (2,200 primary, 1,050 participants from Demonstration Days) A large number of farmers were trained towards the end of the reporting period and are not yet entered in the M&E database
Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	2,600	n/a	n/a	n/a	The initial target of 9,600 was reduced to 2,600 per USAID instruction All 2,200 primary farmers received improved inputs and machinery services and applied the new technologies to their fields. Data will be reported on in Q3 after all database entries are finalized Data for demonstration participants will be reported on in the Annual Report
Number of jobs attributed to implementation	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	Preliminarily, 15 jobs were created in the MTS with whom we cooperate. It remains to be seen whether these will become long-term and what employment degree they entail This figure will be reported on in the Annual Report

1.1 IDENTIFY PRODUCER GROUPS

The project contracted TES Center for Osh oblast and RAS Jalalabad for Jalalabad oblast to mobilize and train beneficiary farmers (1000 farmers in Osh and 1,200 in Jalalabad). TES Centre mobilized farmers according to the following criteria; a commitment of 0.5 ha land to grow maize and readiness by male head of household farmers to pay 50 percent and by female head of household farmers to pay 25 percent of the investment costs for maize seeds and inputs. The remaining percentage of the input costs and the full costs of agricultural machinery services are covered by the project.

The number of mobilized farmers per rayon is; in Jalal-Abad; 460 farmers – Suzak, 340 – Bazar-Korgon, 400 – Nookan. In Osh 100 farmers – Aravan, 80 – Uzgen, 620 – Kara-Suu, and 200 – Nookat.

I.3. INCREASE SALEABLE YIELD

The ASPs conducted training on agricultural cultivation technologies for hybrid maize. In collaboration with the seed supplier and the maize STTA, the ASPs developed a technological card outlining type, quantity, and cost of inputs and machinery services associated with maize production. If farmers adhere to the recommendations of the technological card guidelines will result in achieving yields of 10 - 12 tons per hectare, which is double their existing yields. By the end of the reporting period, more than 700 farmers participated in the first training in Jalalabad oblast, and all 1,000 beneficiary farmers in Osh participated.

To promote the advantages of using hybrid maize seeds to a broader agricultural audience, the maize STTA conducted a workshop on the advantages of using hybrid maize seeds at the Agro Expo “Silk Road 2016” in Osh in late February.

IMPROVE PRODUCER GROUP ACCESS TO INPUTS AND SERVICE

After continued discussions with the initial seed company, Bai Jer Ltd, and the financing company, Bai-Tushum Bank, both withdrew their offers to cooperate with the project citing supply timing constraints and contracting issues. The project identified another company, Elet Innovations, to supply hybrid seeds (PL-71) and the required inputs to farmers in Osh and Jalalabad oblasts. While the project was able to identify a new seed supplier and quickly modified its programmatic approach, the terms to which the farmers initially agreed also changed, leaving some farmers to backout out of the maize VC program. Recruiting new beneficiary farmers required additional time and resources.



Figure 6: A maize farmer adds high quality hybrid seeds to a mechanical seeder.

kg of urea mineral fertilizer, 1,5 kg of leaf-feeding fertilizer "Nutrivant grain plus" and 0,5 L of herbicide. The farmers paid their share (leverage) of the input costs prior to distribution. Local authorities participated in the distribution events that were widely covered by the mass media.

Eight local Machinery-Technical Services (MTSs) were selected and contracted (four for Osh and four for Jalalabad) to provide services for maize farmers, such as plowing, harrowing, sowing with fertilizer, spraying, cultivation, harvesting etc. Criteria for the selection were availability of required number and condition of machinery and the experience of MTS, the prices of services and location. The MTS and the farmer groups negotiated a schedule for services. At the end of the reporting period, the MTSs prepared all 1100 hectare of maize fields for sowing. The project, together with the ASPs, continuously monitored the schedule and quality of fieldwork.

In parallel, the project conducted a tender for the supply of agricultural machinery, fertilizers and pesticides. The fertilizers such as ammophos, urea, leaf-feeding fertilizer Nutrivant grain plus, herbicides and plant protection means were purchased (the machinery is planned to be purchase later). The project organized nine distribution points for handing over the inputs to farmers in the respective rayons of Jalalabad and Osh oblasts as in-kind grants.

In March, each farmer received the first package of inputs, which included 10 kg of hybrid maize seed, 100 kg of ammophos and 2,25 L of herbicide. In late April, the project will provide the second package to farmers including 200

CROP 6: NURSERY APPLE, APRICOT, PLUM, CHERRY, PEACH

VALUE CHAIN OBJECTIVES

Agro Horizon is building on Year 1 nursery value chain activities and scaling up efforts to strengthen the nursery value chain. A main objective of the nursery value chain is the production of certified seedlings. This process will take up to two years and requires establishing a mother garden. Therefore, during Year 2 the project plans to build the foundation for certification of seedlings thus paving the way to sustainable nursery businesses in the ZOI, exports of certified seedlings, and eventually increase farmers' incomes. This value chain plans to reach 460 farmers in Year 2 through demonstrations and training programs.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Table 8: Indicator Targets for Nursery Value Chain

Output and Outcome Indicators	Year 2 Target	Achieved as of Q-2	Comment
Number of Rural Households benefiting directly from USG assistance	230	0	In line with USAID instructions to focus more on quality rather than in quantity, the target number of households for Year 2 changed to from 500 to 230
Number of Target Value Chain private enterprises assisted	1	0	
Number of Individuals Trained	460	0	In line with USAID instructions to focus more on quality rather than in quantity, the target number of individuals trained for Year 2 changed from 1,000 to 460.
Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance	160	n/a	In line with USAID instructions to focus more on quality rather than in quantity, the target number of farmers adopting new technologies changed from 800 to 160
Number of jobs attributed to implementation	1	n/a	To be reported at the end of the fiscal year

The number of individuals trained for the current quarter is zero. Technical trainings and demonstration days will begin in Quarter 3. Technical trainings covering three topics (seedlings, soil fertility and plant protection) will reach 100 farmers starting in June. Demonstration days will also begin next quarter in Jalalabad, Batken and Osh, reaching 180 – 200 farmers.

Although Agro Horizon's Year 2 work plan targets 1,000 individuals and 500 households in the nursery VC, in the concept note approved by USAID, the numbers were lowered to 600 individuals and 360 households. However, after

discussions with implementing partners, the target numbers were lowered again to 460 individuals and 230 households. The updated target numbers are congruent to existing number of nursery farmers in target locations and the decrease in targets complies with USAID's prioritization of quality over quantity. Agro Horizon deems it reasonable to involve more motivated farmers in trainings program and not to force an increase in membership in beneficiary cooperatives but rather attract only farmers who are motivated and interested in cooperation. This will add to the sustainability of the beneficiary cooperatives.

2.2 (A) IDENTIFY REGIONAL AND NATIONAL MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to supporting the production of certified seedlings of high-yield fruit trees and berry varieties, Agro Horizon continues efforts to market seedlings produced by beneficiary cooperatives. Agro Horizon initiated a situational analysis to formulate the nurseries' marketing strategy, beginning with analyzing marketing and production capacities of beneficiary nursery cooperatives,

Sales of seedlings have been steadily growing in recent years evidenced by the dramatic shift to fruit production not only in Agro Horizon's ZOI, but also throughout the region. However, the production of seedlings mostly remains a traditional occupation with a small portion of seedlings meeting modern quality standards and being certified. This presents a window of opportunity for Agro Horizon's beneficiary nurseries to sell certified seedlings, export to high value markets and reach higher gross margin. Agro Horizon has allocated funds to assist beneficiary nurseries with the marketing of seedlings, including market analysis, development of marketing strategy, branding, and promotion. Agro Horizon granted label printers to nursery cooperatives to help them differentiate their seedlings from those with unknown origin, variety, and health status, ensuring that buyers attain quality seedlings.

Agro Horizon is facilitating the creation of a mother bed of certified rootstock and bud woods to enable farmers to produce certified seedlings. Arpasay Bereke Bagy, one beneficiary cooperative, supported by the ASP, has acquired land and developed a detailed plan on planting and maintaining the mother bed. Agro Horizon will provide improved varieties of rootstocks and wood stocks imported from Holland in the autumn.

1.2 FACILITATE MARKET LINKAGES FOR PRODUCER GROUPS

In order to facilitate sales and linkages between nurseries, input suppliers, and buyers, Agro Horizon supported the participation of two beneficiary nurseries, Arpasay Bereke Bagy and Top Agro, to the Silk Road 2016 agricultural exhibition in Osh, held February 25-27. Over two days, the cooperatives sold about 5,000 seedlings totaling KGS 350,000 (approx. USD 5,000). Agro Horizon also arranged a workshop on gardening and nursery business for exhibition attendees. A total of 71 farmers attended the workshop, of which 50 percent were women.

1.3 INCREASE SALEABLE YIELD OF PRODUCER GROUPS

Through a competitive bidding process, the project awarded TES Centre and RAS Jalalabad contracts to organize technical trainings, capacity building workshops and demonstrations, and the creation of revolving funds for certified seedlings. An STTA is helping to establish the mother garden by providing technical support to farmers and enhancing the capacity of the ASPs.

2.1 INCREASE SME COMPETITIVENESS

Agro Horizon's market systems development approach, bolstered by efforts to increase productivity and improve quality, positions nurseries with high quality seedlings grown by beneficiary cooperatives as an integral part of the wider fruits market system. Agro Horizon selected three nursery cooperatives to develop within the nursery VC, discussed the vision of nursery VC with them, and jointly developed a roadmap for nursery VC development, which was integrated into concept note, now approved by USAID. With the aim to strengthen nurseries by improving quality

and ensuring certification of seedlings, Agro Horizon team has, after extensive consultations with experts, identified high-yield, semi-dwarf varieties of fruit trees suitable for cultivation in Kyrgyzstan. Agro Horizon will procure certified rootstocks and woodstocks of these varieties, which will be planted in the mother garden. The mother garden will be established in November 2016 and will allow beneficiary cooperatives multiply the certified seedlings. Agro Horizon facilitated the acquisition of two hectares of land near Kyzyl Kiya by Arpasay Bereke Bagy cooperative for the creation of the mother garden. The project developed the implementation plan for the mother garden from purchasing rootstocks and woodstocks - calculations of weight, pallet placement, delivery schedule, customs clearance, etc. - to the specific planting scheme, irrigation, protection, and security of the garden.

IMPLEMENTATION- SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

Supporting activities are those that are not embedded within the specific value chains above.

TASK I: PRODUCTIVITY

TASK OBJECTIVES

Agro Horizon productivity activities focus on two interrelated activities—enhancing economic success of smallholders in target value chains and developing a pluralistic advisory services market to improve sustainability of benefits beyond the life of project.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE AND DEVIATIONS

I.1.3 IMPROVE MEMBER PRODUCTION PRACTICES

PROJECT FUND ACTIVITIES

GRANT: RASPBERRY PRODUCTION IN AN ORGANIC WAY AND MARKETING IN JALALABAD OBLAST

No activities took place during the quarter.

GRANT: FRUIT NURSERY IMPROVEMENT AND FORMATION OF NURSERY ASSOCIATION

The agricultural cooperative on production of seedlings was created with 43 members from three villages of Kadamjay rayon. Approbation of 500,000 seedlings of fruit crops was carried out. The “Arpasaiv-Bereke-Bagy” cooperative received five certificates for five high demand fruit varieties of trees. The total sales of certified seedlings reached 1,140,000 KGS (USD 15,850). The Agro Expo “Silk Road 2016” in February helped to promote nursery seedling marketing and led to an increase in sales.

I.5. ENHANCE ASP ABILITY TO DELIVER VC-CRITICAL TOPICS

Enhance ASP technical content

The **rural advisory service (AS) system study** was completed during the reporting period. It concluded that while Kyrgyzstan has a fairly well-functioning, diverse rural advisory service system, the following areas can be improved: 1) diversification of financing sources, 2) know-how for marketing support to farmers, 3) advanced technical know-how, 4) service quality control mechanism, 5) involvement and ownership of the government in advisory services, 6) coordination among stakeholders, and 7) knowledge management.

The **assessment of the business advisory services system** was close to completion at the end of the reporting period. Its main findings are the following:

- Less than 10 percent of business advisory services are provided in the agricultural sector.
- Of the services in the agricultural sector, 20 percent of the clients are donors, 60 percent agribusinesses, 15 percent farmers, and farmer organizations.

- Only three of 15 interviewed service providers are independent of donor funding.
- Business advisory services prefer to provide services on management issues, while the demand of the agribusinesses is highest for services in technical issues (equipment servicing, new products, quality control etc.).

The project shared the results of the two above-mentioned studies in January at an **Advisory Service Roundtable** attended by 45 stakeholders of the rural/agricultural and business advisory service system (mainly ASPs and BSPs, some government representatives). The results and recommendations of a workshop on attracting youth to the advisory profession were also presented.

The project drafted a scope of work for a **working group to review and update existing farmer learning and information materials** to consolidate and develop materials for the project's target value chains and related topics (maize, potato, onion, nursery, livestock, soil management, water management and farm economy topics).

Attract youth into advisory service industry

A total of 22 ASP representatives and other stakeholders (10 male and 12 females) shared ideas to develop models to attract and build capacity of young advisory service professionals. Agricultural academic representatives from the Kyrgyz National Agrarian University, Manas Kyrgyz-Turkish University and the Agency of Vocational Education attended. The objective of the working group was to build models for attracting and building capacity of young people to the advisory profession.

The project developed a draft concept to attract young people to the advisory service profession including five possible models:

- 1) three-month practical basic advisory skills courses for agricultural graduates and advanced agricultural practitioners,
- 2) one-year in-service course for advisers employed or working on regular basis with ASPs,
- 3) business consulting skills training for independent advisers with agricultural background,
- 4) practical opportunities for volunteer university students in ASP organizations, and
- 5) thematic village specialist courses (season-long for crops or one year for livestock).

1.6 STRENGTHEN ADVISORY SERVICES INDUSTRY

Facilitate the formation of ASP industry association

At the above mentioned Advisory Service Roundtable different **models for an advisory services certification and/or accreditation system** were presented. Stakeholders also discussed the advantages of formal and informal **mechanisms for coordination and cooperation in the AS system**. A full report on the proceedings of the Advisory Service Roundtable is under preparation and will be shared to external partners in Q3.

Improve ASP stakeholder coordination

An assessment of the regulatory framework for government financing of advisory services was planned, however, meetings revealed that the Law on Local Self-Government and the Law on Social Procurement allow local authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture to procure advisory services for the population if they consider such services a priority.

The planned presentation of the AS and BS system studies combined with a discussion of how the government could engage more in the AS system at the Ministry of Agriculture had to be deferred as a result of USAID's request to put on hold all activities with the government until the re-institution of the bi-lateral agreement.

In response to a request from the Minister of Agriculture, the project intends to acquire booklets on various highly relevant topics in stock at TAIC (Training Advisory and Information Centre). Eleven proposed booklets were re-

viewed by specialists and four of them were found to be outdated or have significant flaws and were therefore rejected. The project agreed to purchase 1,177 copies of the other seven booklets from TAIC and deliver them to the Ministry for distribution to their regional departments and local government. This plan is currently on hold.

TASK 2: MARKETING

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Although Year 2 work plan does not envisage any specific activities on marketing of target VC products, Agro Horizon started working in this direction. Confident in the success of efforts to increase productivity and improve product quality in target VCs, Agro Horizon started to pave the way to apply a market systems development approach, which implies more market-centric activities aimed at ensuring sales of target VC products.

2.2 IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS AND TRADE

In this quarter, Agro Horizon supported the 12th Annual Silk Road 2016 Agro Expo in Osh February 25 – 27. Over 3,500 people from the Osh, Batken, and Jalal-Abad visited the exhibition. Sales volumes of exhibitors, majority of which are inputs suppliers selling to farmers, reached KGS 15 million (approximately USD 214,000). In addition, exhibitors signed 52 future contracts for about KGS 219 million (approximately USD 3.1 million). With Agro Horizon's support, two nursery cooperatives, Arpasay Bereke Bagy and Top Agro sold about 5,000 seedlings for around KGS 350,000 (approximately USD 5,000) during the exhibition.

In February, Agro Horizon's staff members met with feed mills, distilleries and onion wholesale traders in Khujand and Istraftshan, Tajikistan and reached preliminary sales agreements totalling around 15,000 tons of maize grain, and 400 tons of onion.



Figure 7: Female farmers read about the early onion seminar at the Agro Expo “Silk Road 2016” in February.

2.2.8 PROVIDE TRADE INFORMATION SERVICES AND PROVIDERS

Agro Horizon organized seminars on production and marketing of target VC products. Over 700 farmers, of which 70 percent were women, participated in these seminars and learned how to produce and market onion, apricot, potato, maize, and seedlings.

During the Silk Road 2016 Agro Expo, the head of Agro Inform Asia, a platform for online trade of agricultural products, presented their services to input suppliers, farmers, and processors. A total of 89 participants, of which 52 were women, attended the presentation.

2.2.9 INCREASE SME COMPLIANCE OF REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

Agro Horizon started preliminary discussions on the quality of dried apricots with processors in Batken and reached an agreement to collaborate. Details of the collaboration will be fleshed out in the next quarter.

An STTA on nurseries started working on building technical capacities of nursery farmers to enable them to grow certified seedlings.

TASK 3: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

TASK OBJECTIVES

The objective of Task 3 is to improve communication between the GOKR and key stakeholders in the agricultural sector to advance the policy and regulatory environment so that it is favorable to local production, private investment and international trade. In this quarter, the Agro Horizon project continued laying a significant foundation by working in close coordination with various GOKR departments, private sector stakeholders, financial institutions, other USAID-funded projects, and other foreign development partners.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

3.1 SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Following the denunciation of the bi-lateral agreement between the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (GOKR) and the US Government in August 2015, most of the activities of the Agro Horizon project in relation to work with the GOKR were put on hold per USAID instruction. Nonetheless, the Agro Horizon project team continues to prepare the necessary groundwork for launching technical support and other activities with the GOKR and the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic upon the re-establishment of the bi-lateral agreement and USAID approval.

3.1.1 BUILD CAPACITY OF POLICY UNIT (WITHIN MOA)

In the course of this quarter, Agro Horizon conducted an in-depth capacity assessment of MOA's Agricultural Policy and Planning Department (APPD) and an assessment of the nature and effectiveness of collaboration between MOA departments. The assessment revealed that the MOA APPD lacked capacity to conduct evidence-based policy development, had high staff turnover, and a structure that is not supportive of a cohesive approach to policy development in agriculture. Therefore, while the Agro Horizon project can provide policy development trainings and workshops to APPD staff, these efforts will not lead to sustainable improvement in the agrarian policy development. Currently, the project team is exploring new models that could serve as a viable agrarian policy development scheme to build the capacity of the APPD to formulate evidence-based policies in a timely manner.



Figure 8: Tamchybek Tuleev of USAID Agro Horizon addresses members of majority party Onuguu-Progress on January 22, 2016

3.1.2 ESTABLISH AN INTER-AGENCY AGRO POLICY WORKING GROUP (APWG)

Agro Horizon discussed the significance of establishing the Inter-agency Agricultural Policy Working Group (APWG) with the Parliamentary party/faction "Onuguu-Progress", the majority party/faction that heads the Parliamentary Committee for Agricultural Policy, Water Resources, Environment and Regional Development, tasked with leading agricultural sector policy development. Following the discussions, the party/faction requested the MOA to closely collaborate with Agro Horizon and sent an official request to the USAID Mission in the Kyrgyz Republic to provide technical support in their efforts to establish the APWG. In addition, Agro Horizon continued consultations with the MOA on the issue of establishing and further promotion of the APWG.

3.2 SIMPLIFY ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

During the reporting period, the project met with a number of business associations to discuss the current state of affairs in the private sector as it relates to agricultural sector and challenges faced by the business association in promoting an enabling environment for doing business. The discussions served as the basis for the development of the private sector capacity-building plan to be finalized in the upcoming months. The plan details information on the measures to take in order to support the sustainability of business associations to provide for their active participation in establishing favorable regulatory framework in the agricultural sector.

Following the drip irrigation study tour to Turkey last quarter that included government representatives, this quarter the MOA initiated the development of the State Program on Drip Irrigation. Agro Horizon has negotiated the composition of a working group for the development of the State Program on Drip Irrigation. The launch of the development is contingent on the approval from USAID.

At the request of the Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises of Kyrgyzstan (AFVE), the project discussed the draft State Program of the Food Processing Industry with MOA. During discussions, it was established that the current version of the program is in need of further improvement. Because of this successful public-private dialogue, MOA sent a request to Agro Horizon for technical support to improve the current version of the program. In consultation with USAID, it was agreed that Agro Horizon will carry out an assessment of the food processing sector with particular focus on the project's priority value chains. The findings of this assessment will inform the State Program for the Food Processing Industry to make it truly responsive to the needs of the sector towards competitiveness improvement.

3.3 ADVANCE A COORDINATED, PLURALISTIC ADVISORY SERVICES MODEL

To identify ways to support a coordinated, pluralistic advisory services model, the project met with the Chief of Party and other representatives of the USAID Collaborative Governance Program (CGP), tasked with improving the State Social Procurement System. At the meeting, it was established that the current regulatory framework provides for the possibility of supporting the provision of the agricultural advisory services in rural areas and in the past couples of years the State Social Procurement budget has been increased. However, in order to earmark the budget within the State Social Procurement System for the provision of agricultural advisory services in rural areas, MOA has to apply for social procurement funding. The funding application process is quite complex and MOA staff do not have the capacity to apply for funding. CGP agreed to inform Agro Horizon about their trainings on applying to the State Social Procurement funding for MOA staff to participate.

The project will work towards the standardization of extension materials in its priority value chains in order to facilitate achievement of a coordinated, pluralistic advisory services model.

3.4 INCREASE FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

3.4.1 EXPAND OR IMPROVE FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

During Quarter 2, Agro Horizon met with the management of BT Innovations and discussed improving and expanding financial products, expanding mobile money services and increasing use of DCA. In particular, Agro Horizon identified the needs of agricultural equipment and machinery SMEs through leasing programs and discussed this issue with BT Innovation. In support of project beneficiaries, Agro Horizon facilitated talks between the representatives of BT Innovation and representatives of eight MTSSs, representatives of one SME and representatives of one processing company proposing that Agro Horizon contributes 30 percent of purchasing agricultural machinery. This work will continue in the third quarter.

In January, an international STTA conducted a financial analysis of Agro Horizon value chains. The consultant conducted a number of meetings with local financial institutions to identify willingness and capacity of local banks to provide loans for maize VC farmers. As a result, the consultant recommended two financial institutions to work with on the maize value chain: Bai Tushum Bank and The First Micro Credit Company. The consultant also developed a specific financing scheme; however, it was not compliant with USAID policies and therefore the project opted for the second option which was an in-kind grant program including farmers leverage contribution for inputs. See Maize section above for further information.

3.4.2 EXPAND MOBILE MONEY SERVICES

See/refer to 3.4.

3.4.3 INCREASE USE OF DCA

See/refer to 3.4.

3.5 IMPLEMENT USAID FORWARD COMPONENT/HUMAN AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT (HICD)

3.5.1 PREPARE UP TO 6 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR DIRECT FUNDING DURING THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT

In March, an in-depth organizational capacity assessment of the Association of Fruits and Vegetable Enterprises of Kyrgyzstan (AFVE) was conducted using USAID's Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) tool. The OCA addresses the following seven areas of organizational capacity: Governance and Legal Structure, Financial Management and Internal Controls Systems, Administration and Procurement Systems, Human Resources Systems, Program Management, Project Performance Management and Organizational Management and Sustainability. The assessment helped the Association reflect on its processes and functions, and allowed it to score itself against benchmarks.

As a result of a full four day organizational capacity assessment, the Association's staff (Executive Director, Assistant/Coordinator, Accountant) and the Board Members (3-4 people) assessed the organization's strengths and weaknesses, identified areas for improvements and prepared an Institutional Strengthening Plan for the association. The leadership shaped and set priorities for actions to strengthen its organizational capacity.

The Value Chain Stakeholders Analysis/Mapping Matrix was developed to identify other potential local organizations to be considered for the USAID Forward component of the project.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER LOCAL PARTNERS / STAKEHOLDERS

During Quarter 2, the project held meetings with various local private sector partners and stakeholders to discuss the current state of affairs of the agriculture sector development in Kyrgyzstan. Topics focused on key measures necessary to (1) increase productivity and output, (2) increase nutritious foods, (3) increase employment, (4) increase market share of crops in the selected value chains in both domestic and international markets, and (5) improve enabling environment for the development of the agricultural sector.

TASK 4: NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

TASK OBJECTIVES

Agro Horizon aims to narrow the gap between available and accessible food and the food needed for a healthy and balanced diet using a nutrition-sensitive agriculture approach. This is in recognition that improved productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector does not automatically lead to improved nutritional outcomes at the household level. The entry point for interventions are the communities (via health committees) and households that are assisted through value chain development activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE AND DEVIATIONS

4.1 INTEGRATE APPROPRIATE NUTRITION MESSAGING INTO AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Agro Horizon integrates nutritional messaging into all agricultural activities so that rural households can transfer the benefits of increased yields and income into improved nutritional and health practices. In Quarter 2, Agro Horizon conducted a training for trainers (TOT) for all 46 implementing partners on AgWASH. The total number of households receiving AgWASH add-on trainings is 2,924 and the number of individuals trained is 3,054.

4.1.1. CREATE ADD-ON SPRING-BASED NUTRITION MODULES TO ALL AGRICULTURE TRAININGS

In this quarter, four one-day WASH and AgWASH TOTs were delivered to 45 trainers across four implementing partner ASPs; TES Center, El Pikir, RAS Osh, RAS Batken, RAS Jalalabad and RAS Naryn. The newly developed AgWASH component is a one-hour add-on training to all value chain activities. Valuable feedback included the need to develop AgWASH handouts and behavior change communication posters to use during field days, as well as a sample of safety equipment to use during AgWASH sessions to increase effectiveness.

4.1.3 FACILITATE HOME ECONOMIC TRAININGS THROUGH ABSPS

Agro Horizon developed a six-hour home economics module for farmer trainings that will be used for vegetable kitchen gardeners who grow vegetable to improve their ability to allocate money to purchase and consume nutritious foods. The USAID SPRING project expressed interest in this module to potentially share with their beneficiaries. The module was translated to Kyrgyz and Russian to expand its reach.

4.2 PROMOTE GOOD PRACTICES KITCHEN GARDENING INITIATIVE PROMOTION

The kitchen gardening concept was designed with a nutrition-sensitive agriculture approach to expand vegetable pro-



Figure 9: Seeds and sprayers being distributed for the kitchen gardening activity.



duction in the high altitude areas of Naryn, Jalalabad, and Osh and Batken oblasts where the summer growing season is short, leaving families without garden vegetables for most of the year. During the quarter, USAID approved the concept and four competitive contracts were awarded to the Rural Advisory Services in Naryn, Osh, Jalalabad and Batken. Orientation meetings were held in each oblast. To date, some input supplies were delivered to farmers, including vegetables seeds, plastic for seedlings preparation, and sprayers. After learning that Help Age, a local NGO, is working in the Leilek rayon in vegetable production, the project extended the number of groups from two to five in Kadamjay rayon in order to avoid overlap.

4.2.1. STRENGTHEN VILLAGE HEALTH COMMITTEES AND WORKERS

In this quarter, the project contracted with the Association of Village Health Committees (AVHC). The MOU for joint cooperation for 2016 – 2018 will be signed in Quarter 3. Selection and contracting of national trainers on WASH, delivery of TOTs for 34 rayon health committee trainers and refresher trainings for 691 VHCs members on WASH and AgWASH by rayon trainers will start next quarter.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

In Quarter 2, Agro Horizon continues to ensure timely detection of possible negative impacts and subsequent development of mitigation strategies within all program activities.

During the reporting period, the Environmental Compliance Specialist (ECS) developed environmental review checklists for all project activities implemented by Agro Horizon. Environmental reviews included Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plans that were approved by the USAID Mission Environmental Officer. In particular, for projects that involved the procurement and use of pesticides, Agro Horizon developed mitigation measures to protect the health and safety of farmers. Project agronomists consulted with the ECS during the selection of pesticides to make sure that active ingredients are approved for use under Programmatic PERSUAP and included in the State catalogue of pesticides and agrochemicals approved for use in the Kyrgyz Republic. All farmers will undergo trainings on safe pesticides application, personal safety, storage of pesticides and disposal of empty containers. For those farmers that have not received training during the reporting period, they will be trained in the beginning of Q3 before any spraying is done. Agro Horizon included environmental compliance clauses in grant agreements and subcontracts.

The ECS works closely with the project grants department and is a member of the grant selection committee to ensure timely detection of possible negative environmental impacts and related mitigation. The ECS assisted the grants department with the development of waiver for restricted goods that was approved by the USAID.

Agro Horizon will continue its work on environmental compliance and will make sure that all implemented activities will have not have a negative impact on the environment.

PROJECT GRANT FUND

Agro Horizon's 5.4 million Project Fund, a flexible mechanism to build local capacity, foster innovations, leverage resources, and stimulate private sector investment to address value chain constraints, serves to incentivize investments by grant recipients, but not as a sole funding source. A portion of the Project Fund is used to contract ASPs to deliver training and technical assistance to selected producer groups, agribusinesses, and other VC actors.

Agro Horizon's grants department closely collaborated with task teams to develop procurement mechanisms for Year 2 value chain concepts. In Quarter 2, the grants department announced request for proposals (RfPs) to mobilize farmers in the maize, potato, onion, and nursery value chains. An RfP for the mobilization of farmers in apricot production was announced in first quarter and the ASP was contracted together with other four above-mentioned ASPs in second quarter.

Of the seventeen project fund activities supported through the Project Fund in Quarter 2, twelve are subcontracts and five are grants. The twelve subcontracts were awarded to ASP's to mobilize farmers in specific value chains and to deliver trainings to farmers and conduct demonstration days. Four grants are with micro finance institutions to establish potato seed funds and one grant was signed with the Association of Agro Businesspersons of Kyrgyzstan "Jer

Azygy” to support the organization of Agro Expo Silk Road 2016 in Osh. Two grants signed in Year 1 are continuing their activities beyond Quarter 2 of Project Year 2.

The total amount of disbursement during reporting period is 369,522 USD.

MONITORING, DATA COLLECTION, AND REPORTING

ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRESS TO DATE, AND DEVIATIONS

Primary Quarter 2 M&E activities included support to the Agro Horizon project partners launching value chain activities; upgrades to the SharePoint database; and the PY2 and PY3 value chain baseline study. Brief descriptions of each activity are outlined below.

SUPPORT TO PROJECT PARTNERS

Kick-off Meeting

Overall, twelve kick-off meetings were organized and conducted by the M&E team in all four ZOI oblasts; Osh, Jalalabad, Batken, and Naryn. The key objective of the kick off meetings were to review contract terms, finalize action plans, provide guidance on how to complete M&E forms, and submit reports. The M&E team developed an implementing partner toolkit that includes required forms, policies and regulations, including branding and marking.

Coaching on M&E forms

The M&E team provided coaching to implementing partners to ensure better quality data collection; i.e. filling in the forms and drafting the reports on completed tasks. The total number of such support was 15 in all four oblasts. During the coaching activities, M&E staff monitored activities.

Supporting activities

The M&E team supported the project partners in organizing and conducting events; e.g. Agro Expo “Silk Road 2016” in Osh where more than 3,000 people participated and Agro Horizon trained more than 500 beneficiaries.

DATABASE, DATA COLLECTION, DATA ENTRY

Database

Year 1 annual beneficiary survey results were entered into the SharePoint database. The sub-site, LEAP (Learning, Evaluation and Analysis Platform) was set up to track the project’s output and outcome indicators. LEAP provides visual tracking of indicators and project progress.

Qualitative data collection

The M&E Director trained the department on qualitative data collection including using a voice-recorder for interviews. Ten subsequent interviews with project beneficiaries fed into a success stories database.

Data entry

The M&E team entered more than 3,500 beneficiary forms, and more than 4,000 project activity participants’ forms were linked to the database in this quarter. The M&E team, project partners, and other project field officers all collected data.

PY2 AND PY3 VC BASELINE SURVEY

The Kyrgyz research company, SIAR, conducted the primary field activity for the baseline study on value chains of project years 2 and 3. SIAR will present the findings of the survey to the Agro Horizon project in April. The M&E team assisted with the planning (research tools development and TOTs for enumerators) and implementing the survey, including monitoring field work, interviewing each SIAR enumerator, and conducting four focus group discussions in each of the four ZOI oblasts.

MANAGEMENT, CROSS-CUTTING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE

MANAGEMENT

AGRO HORIZON COLLABORATION TABLE

The following table lists critical stakeholders and partner institutions that the project has worked with during the reporting period.

Table 9: Project Collaborations with Stakeholders and Partner Institutions

PROJECT/ GOVERNMENT BODY	Y2 Q2 PROJECT COLLABORATION
Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises	The Association has requested support to analyze the fruit/vegetable and meat/dairy industries in Kyrgyzstan
Association of Producers and Suppliers of Meat and Dairy Products of Kyrgyzstan	Meeting with the Executive Director of the Association to discuss potential collaboration
Association of Village Health Committees (AVHCs) under Ministry of Health	Obtained USAID approval for developed project proposal for cascade training on nutrition, farm hygiene and WASH messaging
Bai Tushum Bank	Negotiation on financing maize farmers
Bai Tushum Innovations Financial Fund	Financing acquisition of machinery and equipment by SMEs
Batken Administration	Frost protection measures of apricot trees in Batken oblast
Batken Azygy association	Development of apricot VC
Business Association "JIA"	Meetings with the Deputy Executive Director and other representatives to discuss potential collaboration and current state of affairs in the private sector (agriculture) and the Association's interest to participate in the public private collaboration in the framework of the inter-agency Agro Policy Working Group
Organic Apricot producing Cooperative "Alysh Dan"	Discussion on plant protection methods and issue of some organic farmers joining project on apricot productivity increase in Batekn region

Chamber of Commerce in the Jalal-Abad oblast	Participated at the round table in the Jalal-Abad city organized by the Chamber of Commerce of the Jalal-Abad, UNDP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland on consolidating all stakeholders' efforts to have comprehensive and effective measures in stimulating regional trade, attracting investments and establishing new forms of cooperation. The round-table addressed the role of agriculture in the economic development of the region
El Pikir	Implementing partner for apricot value chain
First Microcredit Company	Financing maize farmers
Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (Department of Agro-industrial Complex)	Establish an inter-agency Agro Policy Working Group (APWG)
International Business Council (IBC) United Nations Development Program in the Kyrgyz Republic (UNDP)	Meetings with the Executive Director and representatives of the IBC's Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility Committee and representatives of UNDP to discuss the current regulatory framework for public private partnership and challenges in the implementation of the law on Public Private Partnership in the light of possibilities of capital investments in the development of the irrigation systems in Kyrgyzstan
Jer Azygy Association of Agro businessmen of Kyrgyzstan	Implementing partner for the Silk Road 2016 agricultural exhibition
Jogorku Kenesh, the Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic	Work with the Committee on Agrarian Policy of Jogorku Kenesh to identify main directions of agriculture sector
Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users	Meeting with Director of the Association to discuss current challenges in land and water management and irrigation systems in Kyrgyzstan and potential collaboration with the Agro Horizon project
Ministry of Agriculture and Amelioration of the Kyrgyz Republic (MOA)	Capacity building activities for the Policy Unit of MOA, support with the elaboration of the National Program on Drip Irrigation in KR, frost protection measures of apricot trees in Batken oblast
Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic (MOE) State Tax Agency of the Kyrgyz Republic (STA)	VAT exemption of agricultural equipment for project beneficiaries
Oasis Agro	Development of livestock VC intervention model
RAS Batken	Contracted to implement kitchen gardening project in Kadamjay rayon of Batken oblast to improve dietary diversity of women and children

RAS Jalal Abad	Contracted to implement kitchen gardening project in 5 rayons of Jalal Abad oblast to improve dietary diversity of women and children. Implementation of nursery VC activities
RAS Naryn	Contracted to implement kitchen gardening project in 6 rayons of Naryn oblast to improve dietary diversity of women and children
RAS Osh	Contracted to implement kitchen gardening project in 3 rayons of Osh oblast to improve dietary diversity of women and children
State Disease Prevention and Sanitary Inspection Department	Collaborate in Behavior Change Communication materials development on farm hygiene promotion
SUN alliance	Discussed ways to integrate nutrition messaging into agricultural activities through local NGOs involved in nutrition sensitive agriculture projects
TES – Centre	Implementation of nursery VC activities
Top Agro cooperative	Implementation of nursery VC activities
Trade House "Vkus Solnza"	Meetings and discussions with representatives of the Trade House on value chain development, marketing and promotion of VCs and processed products (fruit and vegetables) and potential collaboration with Agro Horizon project.
Trainings, Advisory, Innovations and Consulting Centre (TAIC)	Implementation of onion VC activities
Union of Cooperatives of Kyrgyzstan	Cooperation in development of value chains. Meetings regarding USAID FORWARD.
USAID Collaborative Governance Program (CGP)	Meetings with the Chief of Party and other representatives of the USAID Collaborative Governance Program (CGP) to discuss possibilities/opportunities within the State Social Procurement System to support the development of pluralistic approaches in provision of agricultural advisory services.
USAID SPRING Project	Received module on dietary diversity.

CROSS CUTTING

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender Audit of ASPs

The project shared the results of the gender audit of eight partner ASPs at a stakeholder roundtable. The gender audit that revealed that nearly all of the organizations lack a gender policy or strategy although many of them received gender trainings by different donor organizations. Only one organization, RAS Osh, has a position dedicated to gender issues tasked with increasing the capacity and awareness of staff, participating in gender- and women-related events, and tracking women-related project activities.

All organizations had a culture where women and men roles at work and in society were recognized and respected. Organizations were very family-friendly: staff professionals with extra family or health issues were entitled to take flexible working hours upon management's approval. Although staff salary distribution was not based on gender, gender balance targets were non-existent and policies to retain women professionals were not implemented.

None of the organization had monitoring and evaluation capacity; therefore, no gender-desegregated information was collected and analyzed throughout the organization's lifetime. Advocacy and communication of gender achievements were implemented only if it was a project deliverable. All staff knowledge on gender was limited to women and women-related interventions (not focusing on the inclusion of men).

Value Chain Activities

In January, a berry VC gender analysis was conducted in all four oblasts. The analysis methodology included surveys, focus group discussions, and interviews of key stakeholders. The resulting report detailed the current state of gender roles and constraints of men and women farmers in strawberry, raspberry and black currant VCs, existing services and input supplies, scale of different stakeholders, and market for berries in the country.

The analysis revealed that the berry VC is mostly small-scale production by women. While men or husbands help in preparing the land, applying chemicals and watering the household plot, women and children select and buy the runners, plant, trim, weed, apply fertilizers, harvest, sort and sell in the market. Women typically collect the proceeds from the sales and make decision over its use. Business planning or household budgeting is not conducted. Women and men farmers have equal access to different production inputs, including runners, seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, machinery, loans, labor force, and extension services. The difference was in frequency and commonality of how much women and men farmers make use of the inputs: women tend to apply more of their own labor, more organic fertilizer, less extension services, loans and machinery services compared to men.

The berry VC concept note is under development, integrating the findings from the analysis and developing the intervention model.

Gender Mainstreaming Guidelines

Jenn Williamson, ACDI/VOCA Gender Mainstreaming Director, helped to rewrite the project's gender strategy, including gender sensitive implementation guidelines and principles, internal gender procedures, as well as gender checklist for activity development. The strategy is currently under review.

ADMINISTRATION

SUMMARY OF STAFFING

Local Staff

The project restructured the Grant & Procurement department during the reporting period. The Grant & Procurement Director submitted her resignation and recruitment began immediately for a replacement. Recruitment for a new Grant Coordinator position was also initiated.

A new Communication & Learning Manager was hired, and a short-term Communications Specialist was hired to institutionalize the communications department and train the new Manager.

HQ staff and Consultants

COP, Martin West, became ill and required medical attention outside of Kyrgyzstan. The DCOP, Alisher Amanbaev, served as Acting COP until Agnes Luz joined the project as Acting COP in the beginning of March.

During the quarter, eleven consultants were mobilized, including two international consultants. In addition to consultants, numerous HQ staff support was provided during the quarter. ACDI/VOCA HQ support assignments included the Director of Gender Mainstreaming & Women's Empowerment, Jenn Williamson (January 30 - February 11); HQ Project Coordinator, Rebekah Bakewicz (February 15 - March 5); the Vice President of IT, Scott Vickland (February 20 – March 9); the Technical Director of Local Capacity Building, Jacob Grey (March 3- 20); and HQ Project Manager, Art Gandilyan (March 20 to 26).

ANNEX I: APPROVALS SUMMARY

Kyrgyzstan Agro Horizon Project October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2018 Approvals to Date		
Item	Date Submitted	Date Approved
Travel Approval – Rebekah Bakewicz	9/22/2014	9/23/2014
Travel Approval – Maria Bina Palmisano	10/03/2014	10/30/2014
Travel Approval – Paul Forrest	10/03/2014	10/30/2014
Travel Approval – Angelina Tracy	10/03/2014	10/30/2014
Travel Approval – Claire Clugston	10/23/2014	10/28/2014
TCN Waiver – Markus Ischer, Elisabeth Katz, Jane Gisin, Peter Schmidt, Lydia Pluess and Valeriya di Berardino	10/25/2014	3/3/2015
Annual Work Plan – Year 1	11/15/2014; revised 2/6/2015; revised 6/23/2015	6/29/2015
Travel Approval – Ken Smith	11/17/2014	11/17/2014
Activity Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (AMEP)	12/1/2014	10/1/2015
Labor Approval – Susan Anderson	12/16/2014	12/22/2014
Travel Approval – Susan Anderson	1/12/2015	1/12/2014
Project Fund Manual	2/3/2015	8/26/2015
1st Quarterly Report -Q1 FY 2015	2/3/2015	6/2/2015
Travel Approval – Jacob Gray	2/3/2015	2/6/2015
Travel Approval – William Sparks	2/3/2015	2/6/2015
Travel Approval – Jeremy Barnes	2/3/2015	2/9/2015
Travel Approval – Charlotte Block	2/10/2015	2/12/2015
Travel Approval – Dirck Stryker	2/25/2015	2/27/2015
Travel Approval – Mukhtar Amin	2/25/2015	2/27/2015
Travel Approval – Svetlana Livinets	2/25/2015	2/27/2015

Travel Approval – Rebekah Bakewicz	3/11/2015	3/16/2015
Travel Approval – Geoffrey Chalmers	4/3/2015	4/7/2015
PERSUAP	4/8/2015; revised 6/26/2015	9/9/2015
Labor Approval – William Sparks	4/22/2015	4/30/2015
Travel Approval – William Sparks	4/22/2015	4/23/2015
Labor Approval – Tamara Ljubinkovic	4/22/2015	4/30/2015
Travel Approval – Tamara Ljubinkovic	4/22/2015	4/23/2015
2nd Quarterly Report –Q2 FY 2015	4/30/2015	7/7/2015
Key Personnel, Salary Approval, & TCN Waiver – Martin West	5/12/2015	6/3/2015
Labor Approval – Elizabeth Adams	5/20/2015	5/27/2015
Grant Approval - Alysh Dan (BIS007)	5/20/2015	6/8/2015
Grant Approval - Batken Jimishi (BIS013)	5/20/2015	6/8/2015
Grant Approval - Contracting Centre, LLC. (BIS008), <i>correction</i>	5/21/2015	5/21/2015
Travel Approval – Martin West	6/4/2015	6/4/2015
Travel Approval - Paul Schoen	6/20/2015	6/22/2015
Travel Approval - Nico van Wageningen	6/20/2015	6/22/2015
Local Salary Adjustment – four local staff	6/22/2015	7/13/2015
Travel Approval – Maria Bina Palmisano	6/22/2015	6/23/2015
Labor Approval – William Sparks	6/26/2015	7/7/2015
Travel Approval – William Sparks	6/26/2015	7/2/2015
Labor Approval – Jennifer Williamson	6/30/2015	7/10/2015
Travel Approval - Bakhtiyor Abduvokhidov	7/19/2015	7/20/2015
3rd Quarterly Report – Q3 FY 2015	7/30/2015	11/10/2015
Labor Approval – Nadia Namken	7/31/2015	8/4/2015
Annual Work Plan – Year 2	8/5/2015	10/5/2015
Travel Approval – ISPI EMEA Annual Conference	9/21/2015	9/25/2015
Labor Approval – Art Gandilyan	10/16/2015	10/19/2015

Travel Approval – Mohamed Abdel-Rahman	10/21/2015	10/21/2015
Travel Approval – Simon Paul	10/22/2015	10/23/2015
Travel Approval – Art Gandilyan	10/22/2015	10/30/2015
Year 1 Annual Report (4 th Quarterly Report) – Q4 FY 2015	10/30/2015	12/3/2015
Labor Approval - Bakhtiyor Abduvokhidov	11/10/2015	11/18/2015
Travel Approval - Bakhtiyor Abduvokhidov	11/13/2015	11/24/2015
Labor Approval – Nizam Al-Hussainy	11/13/2015	12/2/2015
Travel Approval - Nico van Wageningen	12/1/2015	12/1/2015
Travel Approval - Nizam Al-Hussainy	1/6/2016	1/8/2016
Travel Approval - Bakhtiyor Abduvokhidov	1/16/2016	1/18/2016
Travel Approval – Jennifer Williamson	1/21/2016	1/22/2016
Labor Approval – Julie Hamlin	1/24/2016	1/25/2016
1st Quarterly Report – Q1 FY 2016	1/29/2016	2/4/2016
Grant Approval – BIS016, BIS017, and BIS018	1/30/2016	2/4/2016
Travel Approval – Charlotte Block	2/2/2016	2/4/2016
Travel Approval – Jacob Gray	2/4/2016	2/9/2016
Grant Approval – BIS019	2/3/2016	2/9/2016
Travel Approval – Rebekah Bakewicz	2/8/2016	2/9/2016
Labor Approval – Agnes Luz	2/16/2016	3/4/2016
Travel Approval - Nurgazy Samiddinov and Mirseit Sydykov	2/19/2016	2/19/2016
Restricted Goods Approval, Source and Nationality Waiver, and NXP Approval	2/26/2016	3/14/2016
Concept Approval - WASH and Agro WASH promotion through Association of Village Health Committees	2/29/2016	3/11/2016
Travel Approval – Art Gandilyan	3/7/2016	3/9/2016
Travel Approval – Agnes Luz	3/9/2016	3/9/2016
In-Kind Grant Template Approval – Apricot, Maize, Potato, and Onion	3/10/2016	3/11/2016
In-Kind Grant Template Approval – Kitchen Gardening (Nutrition)	3/10/2016	3/11/2016

In-Kind Grants Approval – Apricot	3/14/2016; 3/15/2016; 3/17/2016	3/14/2016; 3/15/2016; 3/18/2016
In-Kind Grants Approval - Maize	3/15/2016; 3/16/2016; 3/17/2016; 3/17/2018; 3/25/2016	3/15/2016; 3/16/2016; 3/17/2016; 3/18/2018; 3/27/2016
Subcontracts Approval – Elet Innovations and Agro Khimiya	3/15/2016	3/16/2016
Travel Approval - Bakhtiyor Abduvokhidov	3/15/2016	3/16/2016
Travel Approval - Djuraboy Yangibaev	3/15/2016	3/16/2016
Travel Approval – Jeremy Barnes	3/21/2016	3/25/2016
In-Kind Grants Approval - Potato	3/22/2016	3/25/2016
Labor Approval - Dinara Alimdjanova	3/24/2016	pending
In-Kind Grants Approval – Kitchen Garden (Nutrition)	3/25/2016; 3/29/2016	3/29/2016; 3/31/2016
In-Kind Grants Approval - Onion	3/31/2016	3/31/2016

ANNEX II: MEDIA COVERAGE

VALUE CHAIN ACTIVITIES

Table I0: Maize distribution event in Kara-Suu rayon – March 23th, 2016

#	Name of company	Link or Comments	Language	Status
1	Yntymak radio	News release on Maize distribution event: On March 23th, 2016 USAID Agro Horizon Project handed over Maize seeds, Ammophos and Herbicides to 620 BNF farmers in Kara-Suu rayon, Gairat village. At the official part the Head of Rural Department on Agro Development Kubanych Mamedov delivered a speech. Ms. Mamedov expressed his appreciation to USAID and AHOP Team, also highlighted that this help is from the American people. Also, two groups' leaders Jypara Abazova and Toktosun Japarov thanked for the significant contribution on agribusiness development through conducting trainings and providing with high quality seeds, fertilizers and herbicides.	Kyrgyz	Aired
2	ELTR broadcast		Kyrgyz	Aired
3	OTRK TV, Daily news		Kyrgyz	Aired

Table I1: Apricot Demo Days in Batken Rayon from February 29th – March 2nd, 2016

#	Name of company	Link or Comments	Language	Status
1	Akipress	http://batken.turmush.kg/ru/news:283517	Kyrgyz	Aired

SILK ROAD AGRO EXPO 2016 MEDIA COVERAGE

Table I2: Online publications:

#	Website	URL Link	Language
1.	Social Regional TV & Radio company, Yntymak	http://yntymak.kg/index.php/zhanylyktar/kyrgyzcha/item/12500-ash-agro-eks-po-zhibek-zholu-2016-zharmankesi-bashtaldy#itemCommentsAnchor	Kyrgyz
2.	The official Kyrgyz Republic national newspaper Erkin Too	http://erkintoo.kg/%D0%B6%D0%B8%D0%B1%D0%B5%D0%BA-%D0%B6%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%83-2016-%D0%B0%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%BE%D1%8D%D0%BA%D1%81%D0%BF%D0%BE-%D0%BA%D3%A9%D1%80%D0%B3%D3%A9%D0%B7%D0%BC%D3%A9%D1%81%D2%AF/	Kyrgyz

3.	Informational portal, <i>super.kg</i>	http://www.super.kg/mobile/kabar/news/139619/	Kyrgyz
4.	Informational portal, <i>INTER.KG</i>	http://inter.kg/main/13834-oshto-el-aralyk-zhibek-zholu-festi-valy-1257t11991199d1257.html	Kyrgyz
5.	Official website of Association of Kyrgyzstani Agribusinessmen, <i>Jer Azgy</i>	http://aak.kg.com/agroekspo1	Russian
6.	Informational portal, Sputnik Kyrgyzstan	http://ru.sputnik.kg/economy/20160225/1022687727.html	Russian
7.	Informational portal, 24 Kg	http://24.kg/obschestvo/28286_v_oshe_prohodit_mejdunarodnaya_selskobozyaystvennaya_vystavka_shelkovyy_put-2016/	Russian
8.	Informational portal, For. KG	http://www.for.kg/news-355631-ru.html	Russian
9.	Informational portal, AKIpress Turmush	http://xxjgmaq.turmush.kg/ru/news:115750	Russian
10.	Informational portal, Dem KG	http://www.dem.kg/ru/article/20241/v-oshe-otkrylas-mezhdunarodnaya-vystavka-yarmarka-dlya-selhozproizvoditeley-pyc	Russian
11.	Informational portal, Tazabek	http://kg.tazabek.kg/news:284501/ pyc	Russian
12.	Informational portal, 24 Kg	http://www.eng.24.kg/community/179445-news24.html	English
13.	Chinese informational portal, GTZC	http://www.gtzc.net.cn/Ru/news/info1456497886.html	Russian
14.	Russian informational portal, Ural-Eurasia	http://ural-eurasia.ru/news/economy/24_kg_v_oshe_prokhodit_mezhdunarodnaya_selskobozyaystvennaya_vystavka_shelkovyy_put_2016/	Russian
15.	Russian informational portal, Russian News	http://russian.news.cn/2016-02/26/c_135131708.htm	Russian

Table 13: TV & Radio, Youtube

#	Name of company	Link or Comments	Language
1	Radio, <i>Azattyk</i>	http://uaport.net/news/kg/t/1602/25/10725704	Russian
2	Official website of radio company, <i>Azattyk</i>	http://rus.azattyk.org/archive/ky_News_in-Russian_ru/20160209/4795/4795.html?id=27572754	Russian

3	Bashat TV, Daily news	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jx6Py1uvbZE	Kyrgyz
4	Yntymak TV, Daily news	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i[dAU3Dtri0	Kyrgyz
5	OTRK TV, Daily news	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDSCVzWWbiQ	Kyrgyz

Table 14: Newspaper & Magazine

#	Name of company	Link or Comments	Language
1	Eho Osha newspaper	http://www.ehoosha.com/?module=news&action=view&id=848	Russian

U.S. Agency for International Development

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20523

Tel: (202) 712-0000

Fax: (202) 216-3524

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